

DEAN ELTON JOHNSON

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Senate

State of Minnesota

WC 03-90

June 18, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 - 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20544

Confirmed

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Distribution Center

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I have the honor to represent a rural Senate district in Minnesota. As an elected official, my constituents have been vocal about their demand for more options to advancing technology. Currently, we have three facilities-based telecommunications providers and many wireless voice and data providers operating in my district. These companies partner with Qwest Communications to meet the needs of our rural consumers.

Approval of Qwest's 271 application will have a direct impact on economic development in the communities I represent. There are many companies in my district who rely heavily on access to the internet. However, these high speed lines are often extremely expensive. With competition for these lines, the price should be reduced, making more resources available for capital expansion and jobs for my constituents.

I believe in the leadership at Qwest. I believe long distance customers have suffered from Qwest divesting itself from the long distance market. I urge you to support Qwest's application for entrance into Minnesota's long distance market. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dean Elton Johnson
State Senator, District 13
121 State Capitol Building
75 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Drive
Saint Paul, MN 55155



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